

RCL/KDE

30 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Re: The Easter Holidays – Active, Independent Revision**

After an extremely busy Spring term, Year 12 and Year 13 students are now at the start of the official Summer examination season and their commitment to revision across the Easter break is of vital importance. Therefore, it is a critical time for students to reflect on their performance in the recent mock examinations and to use the feedback provided to them to focus on effective, active revision over the Easter break - getting Easter revision right often proves critical in terms of endeavouring to secure the best possible A level grades.

#### **Easter is crucial revision time**

To reiterate, the Easter holiday offers an excellent opportunity to complete high quality, personalised revision. It should be possible to revise for five to seven hours a day during the holiday period. Students who do dedicate this time to active revision over the Easter break are highly likely to be in a very strong position to approach their final examinations with a sound knowledge base, increased confidence level and significantly reduced stress levels.

Year 13 tutors have over the past week delivered a presentation to all of our College students entitled '*How do I use the Easter Holidays effectively for A-level revision?*'. This has served as an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on their current revision techniques and provided them with further guidance on how to successfully formulate a clear strategy for their personalised revision programmes as they commence the Easter break. Our students are also strongly encouraged to continue to be proactive and liaise with individual subject staff to address any questions they may have relating to subject specific revision techniques and strategies.

#### **Part-time jobs – a barrier to examination success**

*'...paid work of a few hours per week has a negligible impact on A level grades however long working hours significantly reduce grades'* (Joan Payne).

We have noticed that some of our College students struggle to cope with their academic studies and associated revision programmes as well as a demanding part-time job hence, they often arrive to college tired, late and, in some cases, they do not attend at all. **Therefore, can we please request that students liaise with employers and request a revision to their contract over the Summer examination period?**

Ideally, students should not be working more than 10 hours per week, however, it is hoped that most employers will be supportive and allow weeks off and/or reduced hours for the Summer examinations to support our College students during this vitally important part of the academic year, thus enabling them to arrive at College ready to learn and perform at their best.

#### **College One – a quiet study area**

As a direct result of consultation with and feedback from our students, College One will become a 'quiet study area' during lesson time after the Easter break. This will serve to support our students with their revision during non-contact time. Staff are available to provide revision activities and guidance, however, students must be proactive and seek additional support if required. Successful post-16 learners will typically demonstrate an extremely positive attitude to learning and full ownership/accountability of their bespoke revision programmes.

If they take a proactive approach to the aforementioned points and input, our College students will hopefully come back after the Easter break with lots of revision (up to 70 hours) from across the 17 days under their belts, alongside having enjoyed some opportunities to rest, recuperate and proactively move into the most important 10 weeks of their education to date.

Finally, on behalf of the College team, we wish you a very pleasant Easter break, however, if you feel that we can be of further assistance regarding the matters raised in this letter or any other College related-matter, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



**Mrs R Clark**  
Joint Head of Academy

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